



## ACTIF Quarter 3 Grant Report July - Sep 2012

**Grant activity title:** To develop and deliver value added products & services that directly impact on the competitiveness of the CTA sector & ACTIF sustainability

### Grant Objectives:

ACTIF, having taken a lead role of championing the implementation of the COMESA regional Cotton to Clothing strategy, will place more focus on implementation activities as highlighted in the strategy implementation matrix by playing a leadership and monitoring role across the region, supporting its members in implementation activities, and by promoting the harmonization of national strategies with the regional strategy.

ACTIF will place a special emphasis on activities to strengthen its institutional capacity and internal structures, increase value added services to its member organizations and to the CTA industry, crucial for both the sustainability and growth of the Federation, and build income streams for its future sustainability.

The primary objective of this grant application is for the support of specific activities aimed at addressing the core challenges facing the organization, to consolidate on the gains achieved so far.

These include:

1. Provide a leadership role in the implementation of the COMESA CTC strategy
2. Improving the regional business environment, improved trade policies and enhance opportunities:
3. Strengthening of ACTIFs Institutional capacity:
4. Developing and enhancing value added products and services for members:
5. Hold Origin Africa 2012 event in Ethiopia in partnership with COMPETE, ECA Trade Hub, the Ethiopian Textile Industry Development Institute (TIDI) and the Ethiopian Textile and Garment Manufacturers' Association (ETGAMA).



## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES/ PROGRAMS DURING THE PERIOD OF JUL – SEP 2012**

**GRANT OBJECTIVE:** PROVIDE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMESA CTC STRATEGY

**Activity (1.1): Build the capacity of the COMESA strategy implementation committee and in conjunction with COMPETE, hold an initial planning meeting, followed by two implementation progress update meetings**

The objective of this activity is to develop terms of Reference (TOR) for the implementation committee adopted by February 2012 and also to coordinate the Implementation activities in order to generate regular progress reports.

The terms of references for the implementation committee were developed during the first committee meeting that was held in February 2012. The committee was also tasked to review and prioritize the key implementation activities which should not be more than 3 for each sub sector.

*The 1st COMESA Implementation committee meeting has now been scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Nov 2012.*

*The meeting was delayed to give time for some progress to be made in implementation and also for the availability of the members. We propose that the 2nd meeting to be held within year 2013*

**Activities: (1.2) Develop an information pack on best practices for managing fiber contamination in seed cotton, to improve the regions' reputation as a supplier and (1.3) Develop a pre-ginning classification guide on best practices to improve uniformity of fiber characteristics and to inform national seed cotton grade standards**

This activity was originally scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2012 but later moved to second quarter owing to the Origin Africa event that took place in April. A leading consultant was in the field of cotton contamination and classification – Gerald Estur was nominated by the International Trade Center owing to his vast experience in Africa. However following several discussions, he was not available.

*Local consultants have now been engaged to undertake the task with a primary focus on Kenya but to compile best practices on the two subjects benchmarking with the region and internationally.*

*Copies of Proposal and awarded contract attached for reference*



**(1.4) Develop an inventory of regional textile and apparel educational institutions including Universities and vocational training centers, and assess their capacities to train relative to leading international institutions; (1.7) Convene a regional forum of training institutions to initiate the matching of existing curricula with current industry needs across the value chain**

*A regional consultant was engaged who conducted a regional study to develop an inventory of regional training institutions and generate a report on the gaps between the existing quality of training and industry needs. One of the expected outputs will be recommendations for development of centers of excellence.*

*A draft report has been generated. A regional forum has been scheduled to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2012.*

*Copy of draft report, invitation letter and programme attached for reference.*

**GRANT OBJECTIVE:** IMPROVED REGIONAL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT, IMPROVED TRADE POLICIES AND ENHANCED OPPORTUNITIES

**(2.3) Hold a technical committee meeting to review and establish private sector industry positions on the various trade policy issues impacting market access and trade, specifically covering arrangements under the EU EPA's, the EAC rules of origin and FTA, and the Tripartite**

This activity was delayed to give time for key policy issues to be compiled for review by technical committee.

*This activity has now been scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 2012.*

*Attached is the list of proposed participants*

**(2.4) Disseminate information on the various trade policy positions reached, the regulatory requirements, and factors impacting market access through regional workshops, posting on cottonafrica.com website, and through the ACTIF quarterly magazine**

A number of reports have been generated. This will be circulated once the technical committee has reviewed and approved



**GRANT OBJECTIVE: STRENGTHENING OF ACTIFS INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY:**

**(3.3) Represent ACTIF members at the ITMF & ICAC Forum, to strengthen the organizations profile, build international networks and develop associate membership**

Following a special grant request, ACTIF received the support of COMPETE towards participation in the International Cotton Advisory Council meeting (ICAC) and International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF).

*These meetings were scheduled to take place in the months of October 2012. Reporting will be done during the October Monthly report.*

**GRANT OBJECTIVE: VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES DEVELOPED**

**(4.4) Sustain the development and publication of the Cotton Africa Magazine on a quarterly basis, focusing on topical issues**

The development and publication of the Cotton Africa Magazine has been continuing in earnest.

*Copies of Issue 5 is herewith attached for reference*

**(4.1) Improve ACTIF's market information system to increase revenues by upgrading the cottonafrica.com website to include new features that allow greater flexibility to the registered traders and (4.2) Establish an on-line textile directory, for increased inter-regional trade, and as a manufacturing information source for regional and global retailers and brand**

The website has been upgraded and we are soon switching to the new site once the testing phase is complete.

This can be accessed at <http://cottonafrica.demo.co.ke/>



## OTHER STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES NOT PART OF COMPETE GRANT

### **TEXTILE EAST AFRICA (Jan 2012 – March 2013)**

In partnership with DANIDA, Danish Fashion & Textile (DFT), Danish Federation for Small & Medium Enterprises (DFSME) & Kenya Association of Manufacturers.

This is an ongoing activity with a full time program manager stationed at ACTIF. It includes some capacity building programs on quality, export coaching, and CSR for industry and educational institutions.

ACTIF was part of a delegation to Denmark in Aug to meet with key industry players and as part of capacity building of the association.

A delegation of Danish companies is expected in Kenya to meet with local companies early next year as part of the project.

*Copy of visit report herewith attached*

### **SOURCE AFRICA / ORIGIN AFRICA (MARCH 2013)**

*In partnership with South Africa Trade Hub (SATH), USAID COMPETE, East Africa Trade Hub, LTE Event Managers, ACTIF members. ACTIF has been involved in discussions with the two Hubs for EA and SA along with COMPETE on the possibility of hosting a common region Trade event in SA in March 2013.*

*SATH has already committed with LTE to sponsor the Source Africa event in SA. Several meetings and discussions have been held and will continue to be held until a full consensus is achieved.*

### **TEXTILE POLICY RESEARCH FOR KENYA (Oct – Dec 2012)**

*In partnership with Business Advocacy fund (BAF)*

*This activity was approved in early Sep 2012 following several meetings with BAF and concept development.*

*The activity will involve engaging a consultant to work with ACTIF key stakeholders in Kenya to generate a policy review report and recommendations*



## **BUSINESS SUSTAINABILITY SUPPORT**

*In partnership with the Business Advocacy Fund (BAF)*

*ACTIF has developed a concept note to BAF requesting for their support in enhancing the sustainability of the Organization. This would be in the form of cost of consultants to assist in product development and promotion (Origin Africa and Cotton Africa Magazine) along with related institutional support to ACTIF.*

*The application has been finalized and submitted to BAF*

## **REGIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

*Proposed partners include: EPZA, COMESA, University of Nairobi, UNIDO, CBI & CDE*

ACTIF has taken a lead role to mobilize stakeholders to explore the establishment of a regional center of excellence in East Africa to address the need for middle level managers for the textile, apparel and fashion sectors in Africa

ACTIF has already signed an MoU with EPZA on the matter and is currently in discussion with other key partners including COMESA, University of Nairobi, UNIDO, CBI & CDE

*Attached is the concept document for the proposed regional center of excellence.*

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF COMESA CTC STRATEGY (Jan 2013 – Dec 2013)**

*Proposed partners: COMESA, CDE, EU-AAACP & Cos Coton*

*ACTIF has been engaging with COMESA, CDE, EU-AAACP & Cos Coton including meetings with them at their offices to request for support*

*Attached is a copy of the application submitted to COMESA to support the implementation of the regional strategy on COMESA Cotton to Clothing*

## **LINKAGE WITH KEY EU TEXTILE & APPAREL FEDERATIONS**

*Proposed partners: Euratex, International Apparel Federation & MODINT*

*ACTIF has been engaged in discussions with the two apex bodies of EU, Euratex, IAF & MODINT on the possibility of establishing linkages for investment, sourcing from Africa and capacity building of ACTIF as a Federation.*



*Meetings have been held with all of them and follow up discussions are ongoing to pursue the important linkages*

### **EXPORT COACHING AND BUILDING A REGIONAL DATABASE LINKED TO CBI**

*ACTIF is currently in discussion with CBI of Netherlands who run one of the largest Home Textile Databases*

*Attached is a copy of recent discussions with CBI*

### **SUPPORT DOCUMENTS:**

1. Contract for task on contamination and pre ginning classification
2. TORs for consultant for task on contamination and pre ginning classification
3. Draft report on CTA curriculum and recommendations
4. Draft program for regional meeting to review report on CTA curriculum and recommendations
5. Copy of invitation letter and list of participants for regional forum
6. Proposed list of participants for Technical committee meeting
7. Final Draft Cotton Africa Magazine – Issue 5
8. Trade statistics report from Online Trade link on cottonafrica.com (July - Sep 2012)
9. Visit report to Denmark and EU in Sep 2012
10. BAF Application for Textile research
11. BAF Application for Sustainability support
12. Concept note on Regional Center of Excellence
13. ACTIF application to COMESA
14. Discussion note between ACTIF and CBI